

nest-building material and flew with this to a neighboring clump of pine trees. I went with her the next day to the spot, but saw neither the birds nor any evidence of a nest, which, however, does not in any way cast aspersion upon her word. While the bird may not have been actually building, the instinct may have been strong and the nesting season was at hand.

As late as the last week in April the Nutcrackers were still in Carmel and Pacific Grove, as reported to me by Mr. F. C. Holman, a member of the C. O. C., and with whom I was collecting during this stay. Dr. Fisher thought they might possibly change their habits and nest somewhere in the vicinity, and promised to watch them as far as lay in his power.

It was my good fortune during the fortnight spent in Carmel to come across two specimens of the Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) to add to the comparatively few records for this state. One of these was taken at Carmel on March 12, and the other in Pine Canyon, near Salinas, Monterey County, on March 19.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, May 6, 1920.*

Western Tanager in Santa Cruz Mountains in Summer.—While on a visit at Alma, Santa Clara County, California, from June 16 to 23, 1917, I heard and saw a number of Western Tanagers (*Piranga ludoviciana*). From perches well up in the coniferous trees the males were droning out their monotonous songs, and to all appearances the species was established for the summer.—TRACY I. STORER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 14, 1920.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Perhaps the most important ornithological happening announced in recent months is the resumption of activity on the part of the American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Nomenclature. According to the April *Auk* a two-day meeting was held in Washington, D. C., in February. As lately reconstituted the committee consists of Witmer Stone, Jonathan Dwight, H. C. Oberholser, T. S. Palmer, and Charles W. Richmond. It seems to us that this is a well-balanced representation of our ornithologists, as regards the varying views entertained currently in systematic ornithology. Probably no one question is more pressing than that of the constitution of the genus. In this connection we wish to call attention to the valuable article by the Chairman of the committee, Dr. Stone, in *Science* (vol. LI, April 30, 1920), entitled "The Use and Abuse of the Genus". This article sets forth precisely the dangers which threaten as a result of unlimited splitting, and, in our mind, makes the sanest sort of recommendations as to the course of action which should be followed henceforth by working systematists. It is fortunate that a man of Dr. Stone's views is at the head of the committee which will determine the names employed in the next official check-list of North American birds.

Mr. C. M. Goethe, of the California Nature Study League, Sacramento, gives a good pointer for bird students. He writes under date of June 2: Again I have been impressed with the advantages of the sleeping bag in bird study. On a trip last week-end into Cache Creek Canyon, Yolo County, dawn brought several thrilling experiences scarcely to be obtained otherwise. Quail with their young came almost within arm's reach. An oriole sang from a perch in a redbud immediately above the sleeping bag. Titmouses, flycatchers and grosbeaks were watched at similarly close range.

Dr. Edward W. Nelson, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, is spending the summer in northwestern Alaska, where he is looking after the reindeer problem which was assigned to the Survey for attention. Dr. Nelson, it will be recalled, spent four years, 1877-1881, in Alaska, chiefly in the vicinity of Saint Michael. His report upon the birds observed by him during that period remains the most important ornithological publication ever issued relative to Alaska.

Miss Ellen Scripps, of La Jolla, California, is giving the San Diego Society of Natural History two thousand dollars per month, to be continued for two years, to enable the Society to move into larger quarters and to

build up its museum. Miss Scripps desires the educational side of museum work emphasized. The Board of Directors has accordingly appointed Carroll DeWilton Scott Curator of Education. Mr. Scott proposes to give a series of talks on natural history subjects in the schools of the city and county. The Museum will build a number of small cases containing birds, minerals, plants, etc., to loan to schools, the cases to be moved from school to school monthly—a sort of circulating museum—as part of the educational scheme. The research side of the museum work will be carried on also, and Mr. Frank Stephens will be identified with this branch. His plan is first of all to make a full study of the birds and other vertebrates of San Diego County, and he is already (June 29, 1920) embarking upon the necessary field work.

Field work is being carried on by the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology this year as follows: Miss Annie M. Alexander and Miss Louise Kellogg, assisted by Mr. Halsted G. White, are searching eastern Oregon for both living and extinct vertebrates. Mr. Joseph Grinnell spent the month of April in the Death Valley region and Mr. Richard Hunt explored portions of the Mohave Desert; both were in company of the zoologist, Dr. Francis B. Sumner, of the Scripps Institution, San Diego.

Word comes of the death of William Dutcher at Chevy Chase, Maryland, on July 2. Mr. Dutcher had been a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union for 34 years, and for the past several years had been President of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, of the United States Biological Survey, left New York on May 29 to spend about one year in southern South America. He will make a special study of the local conditions under which certain North American species of birds (mainly shore birds) winter there. The results of his work will bear importantly upon the Migratory-bird Treaty Act, administration of which is vested in the Biological Survey.

The Canadian government has been issuing lately a series of small leaflets giving in popular style information regarding birds. Copies of these papers will be sent upon request, by applying to the Commissioner of Dominion Parks, Department of the Interior, Ottawa. The subject matter is mainly relative to species affected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act, apparently as part of a plan for the more general diffusion of knowledge in regard to such birds. Some of the papers are in English, some in French; evidently the naturalists respon-

sible are in earnest in their endeavors to bring home to all the general information that is so important in building up a popular sentiment of approval, without which it is difficult to enforce any regulation. Some recent titles are: *The Brant of the Atlantic Coast*, by R. M. Anderson; *Protection of Bird Neighbors*, by Hoyes Lloyd; *The Birds of a Manitoba Garden*, by Norman Criddle.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—A regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, March 18, 1920, at 8 p. m. President Wright was in the chair and the following members were present: Mesdames Abernathy, Allen, Anderson, Bamford, Bridges, Griffin, Law, Nielson, Roe, Schlesinger, Thomson, Wythe; Messrs. Austin, Bell, Bryant, Cooper, Dixon, Evermann, Grinnell, Hunt, Law, McLean, Palmer, Storer, Swarth, and Wright; visitors: Mesdames Evermann, McLean, G. T. Roe, Swarth, Taylor; Messrs. Abernathy and Schlesinger. February minutes for the two divisions were read and the northern ones approved. Miss Genevieve Burk and Miss Lora Gertrude Rush were elected to membership, and names passed upon by the Southern Division in January and February were approved. Two new names were presented: Mr. T. F. M. Williamson of 525 Howard Place, Pasadena, by S. Herbert Jenks; and Dwight R. Disney, Rupert, Idaho, by H. W. Carriger.

Mr. R. H. Palmer of Palo Alto gave a talk on "Habits of Some of our Common Birds", after which seasonal observations were reported by members present. Mr. Swarth suggested that since certain members of the club are receiving ornithological literature which does not reach all, short reports of such literature be added to the monthly program. A motion embodying this suggestion was made by Dr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Storer, and unanimously adopted by vote of the club. Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

APRIL.—The Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club met at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, April 15, at 8 p. m. President Wright presided and those in attendance were Mesdames Allen, Bridges, Grinnell, Head, Kelly, Law, Mead, Schlesinger, Thomson, and Wythe; Messrs. Austin, Bell, Carriger, Cooper, Lastreto, Law, Swarth, White,